



**Testimony Regarding House Bill No. 5937, An Act Concerning a Study of Extending  
Passenger Rail Service from the City of New London**

Kevin A. Dillon, A.A.E.  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Airport Authority

Joint Committee on Transportation  
February 11, 2015

Dear Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrera, Senator Boucher, Representative O'Dea, and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee,

My name is Kevin Dillon, and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Airport Authority (CAA). I am submitting this testimony regarding House Bill No. 5937, An Act Concerning a Study of Extending Passenger Rail Service from the City of New London.

The CAA believes that the State of Connecticut deserves a strong, multi-modal transportation network, and the expansion of available rail service in the City of New London would be a major benefit to the state. The success of our state's aviation system is highly dependent on our system of roads, highways, buses, and rail service to assist the movement of travelers through different regions of the state. As a result, the CAA is highly supportive of increased rail access for the City of New London.

However, the CAA is concerned by the language in this proposed bill that seeks to focus the study on the feasibility of extending passenger rail service from New London to T.F. Green Airport in Providence, Rhode Island. If State resources are to be spent on a feasibility study for rail-to-airport connectivity, the CAA proposes that the study should instead examine viable ground transportation options from southeast Connecticut to Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks. Airports are key economic generators for the states they serve, and it is crucial that we avoid exporting portions of our state economy to Providence. The CAA asserts that any DOT study should instead prioritize the maintenance of a vibrant and successful aviation system in Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please feel free to contact my office at (860) 292-2054 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kevin A. Dillon'.

Kevin A. Dillon, A.A.E.  
Executive Director  
Connecticut Airport Authority

